

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...in consideration. So that's what this section does and I will be happy to discuss it further as we take up the amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Before I proceed to the amendments, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Robak. We have 21 fourth graders from Williams Elementary from Columbus and their teacher, and they're in the north balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being here. Mr. Clerk, amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Will would move to amend Senator Landis's amendment. (The Will amendment, FA122, appears on page 1721 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is an amendment that is not printed in the Journal but which I did have distributed and should be on your desks by now. This is...this amendment deals with the manner in which the list of independent medical examiners is selected. Currently, under the Landis amendment, the IMEs would be selected and maintained by the Workers' Compensation Court and that would be the list from which opposing parties could either agree to an IME from or could have the court appoint one if they disagreed. Currently, as I said, the court would appoint that list and that would be the end of it. What my amendment would do is make the list that's maintained by the court subject to the approval of an administrative panel composed of three representatives, each, from the medical profession, labor organizations and management business organizations who are appointed by the Governor. This would give an independent stamp of approval to the list of independent medical examiners over and above merely the wishes of the court as far as that would go. I think Senator Landis gave us some valuable insight when he did explain the difference between the physician's choice issue and the independent medical examiner issue in that the physician's choice issue relates to actually who is doing the treating of the individual who sustained the injury, whereas the IME issue refers to what essentially is an arbitrator, an individual who renders an